

## 0.a. Goal

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

## 0.b. Target

Target 5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

## 0.c. Indicator

Indicator 5.a.1: (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

## 0.e. Metadata update

15 February 2021

## 0.f. Related indicators

SDG indicator 1.4.2.

## 0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

## 1.a. Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

## 2.a. Definition and concepts

### Definition:

The indicator is divided in two sub-indicators.

**Sub-indicator (a)** is a prevalence measure. It measures the prevalence of people in the agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land, disaggregated by sex.

No. people in agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land	* 100, by sex
Total agricultural population	

**Sub-indicator (b)** focusses on the gender parity, measuring the extent to which women are disadvantaged in ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land.

No. women in the agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land	* 100, by type of tenure
Total in the agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land	

## Concepts

Definition of all concepts and terms associated with the indicator are reported below:

### Agricultural land

In compliance with the classification proposed by the World Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020), land is considered 'agricultural land' according to its use. Moreover, a reference period is usually required in order to characterize the use of a specific area of agricultural land and identify subcategories.

As clearly shown in the figure below, agricultural land is a subset of the total land.

Basic land use classes		Aggregate land use classes			
LU1. Land under temporary crops	LU1-3 Arable land	LU1-4 Cropland	LU1-5 Agricultural land	LU1-6 Land used for agriculture	
LU2. Land under temporary meadows and pastures					
LU3. Land temporarily fallow					
LU4. Land under permanent crops					
LU5. Land under permanent meadows and pastures					
LU6. Land under farm buildings and farmyards					
LU7. Forest and other wooded land					
LU8. Area used for aquaculture (including inland and coastal waters if part of the holding)					
LU9. Other area not elsewhere classified					

Classification of land use (WCA 2020)

In particular, following the WCA 2020, **agricultural land** includes:

- land under temporary crops<sup>[1]</sup>
- land under temporary meadows and pastures<sup>[2]</sup>
- land temporarily fallow<sup>[3]</sup>
- land under permanent crops<sup>[4]</sup>
- land under permanent meadows and pastures<sup>[5]</sup>

It excludes:

- land under farm buildings and farmyards
- forest and other wooded land
- area used for aquaculture (including inland and coastal waters if part of the holding)
- other area not elsewhere classified

Since the indicator 5.a.1 focuses on agricultural land, it excludes all the forms of land that are not considered 'agricultural', including land under farm buildings and farmyards.

#### Agricultural population

Indicator 5.a.1 uses 'agricultural population' as denominator, instead of the total population, because tenure rights over agricultural land are relevant especially for individuals whose livelihood relies on agriculture. More specifically, since agricultural land includes both crop land and meadows and pastures, tenure rights over agricultural land are relevant for households operating land and / or raising or tending livestock. Thus, the reference population (denominator) for indicator 5.a.1 are: **adult individuals living in agricultural households**, i.e. households that operated land for agricultural purposes and / or raised livestock over the past 12 months, regardless of the final purpose of the production.

The long reference period allows to capture agricultural households even if interviewed off-season, while the inclusion of all purposes includes households that produce only for own consumption.

Engagement in forestry and logging and fishing and aquaculture is not considered because the focus of the indicator is on agricultural land. Households who have tenure rights over agricultural land but do not farm the land are excluded from the reference population, because the indicator focuses on households whose livelihood is linked to practicing agriculture. Moreover, households whose member/s is/are engaged in the agricultural sector only as wage laborer/s are excluded from the reference population. Indeed, while it makes sense to classify as 'agricultural' a household where someone is operating land / raising livestock on his/her own, the same cannot be said for households where a member operates land / raises livestock for someone else because, in this case, agricultural land is not an asset relevant for the household economy.

Once a household is classified as an 'agricultural household', all the adult individuals are eligible to be asked about their tenure right status over agricultural land. The adoption of a household perspective is particularly important from the gender perspective, because in many agricultural households, women often consider themselves as not being involved in agriculture, whereas they provide substantive support to the household's agricultural activities. In addition, the individual's livelihood cannot be completely detached from the livelihood of the other household members; and in particular, for households operating land or raising livestock, land is an important asset for all the individuals and protect them in case the household dissolves.

However, identifying such households is not trivial, because:

1. Agricultural work is highly irregular and strongly affected by seasonality, therefore if the survey questions adopt a short recall period, we risk excluding individuals engaged in agriculture because they did not practice agriculture at the time of the survey or simply because they were interviewed off-season.
2. Agriculture is sometimes practiced only or mainly for own consumption, without any market orientation (so, with no or little income) and therefore not necessarily perceived as an economic activity *strictu sensu*.

#### Ownership and tenure rights over agricultural land:

It is challenging to define and to operationalize ownership and tenure rights in a way that provides reliable and comparable figures across countries.

Land ownership is a legally recognised right to acquire, to use and to transfer land. In private property systems, this is a right akin to a freehold tenure. However, in systems where land is owned by the State, the term 'land ownership' refers to possession of the rights most akin to ownership in a private property system – for instance, long-term leases, occupancy, tenancy or use rights granted by the State, often for several decades, and that are transferrable. In this context, it is more appropriate to speak of tenure rights.

Nonetheless, as emphasized by the EDGE (Evidence and Data for Gender Equality) project<sup>[6]</sup>, focusing on legally recognized documents is not sufficient to analyse the complexity of rights related to land, especially in developing countries and from the gender perspective. The main factor limiting the universal applicability of legally recognized documents is the diverse penetration of such legally binding documents.

Considering the above, as well as the need to propose an indicator valid at global level, the indicator 5.a.1 relies on the three conditions (proxies): 1) Presence of legally recognised documents in the name of the individual; 2) right to sell; 3) right to bequeath.

### 1) Presence of legally recognised documents in the name of the individual

It refers to the existence of any document an individual can use to claim property rights before the law over an asset by virtue of the individual's name being listed as owner or holder on the document.

Given the differences between legal systems across countries it is not possible to clearly define an exhaustive list of documents that could be considered a proof of tenure security. However, depending on the national legal framework the following documents may be considered **as formal titles**:

- Title deed: “a written or printed instrument that effects a legal disposition”<sup>[7]</sup>.
- Certificate of occupancy or land certificate “A land certificate is a certified copy of an entry in a land title system and provides proof of the ownership and of encumbrances on the land at that time”<sup>[8]</sup>.
- Purchase agreement: a contract between a seller and a buyer to dispose of land
- Registered certificate of hereditary acquisition
- Certificate of customary tenure: an official state document indicating the owner or holder of the land because customary law has recognized that particular person as the rightful owner. It can be used as proof of legal right over the land. These certificates include, among others, certificates of customary ownership and customary use.
- Registered certificate of perpetual / long term lease: “a contractual agreement between a landlord and a tenant for the tenancy of land. A lease or tenancy agreement is the contractual document used to create a leasehold interest or tenancy”<sup>[9]</sup>.
- Registered short term (less than 3 years) rental contract
- Certificate issued for adverse possession or prescription: is a certificate indicating that the adverse possessor acquires the land after a prescribed statutory period.

In order to overcome the lack of written documentation and to generate a globally valid indicator it becomes crucial to take into account also the alienation rights over land, which can be present even in contexts where tenure rights are not documented.

Alienation is defined as the ability to transfer a given asset during lifetime or after death. The right to sell and to bequeath are considered as objective facts that carry legal force as opposed to a simple self-reported declaration of tenure rights over land. In particular:

#### 2) Right to sell

It refers to the ability of an individual to permanently transfer the asset in question in return for cash or in-kind benefits.

#### 3) Right to bequeath

It refers to the ability of an individual to pass on the asset in question to another person(s) after his or her death, by written will, oral will (if recognized by the country) or when the deceased left no will, through intestate succession.

The decision to rely on the three proxies above (availability of a legal document, right to sell, right to bequeath) is justified by the results of the seven field tests conducted under the framework on the EDGE project. In particular, the tests demonstrated:

- The lack of reliability of reported ownership/possession. In fact, reported ownership/possession was often neither supported by any kind of documentation nor by the possession of any alienation right.
- The need to consider as ‘owners’ or ‘holders of tenure rights’ only the individuals who are linked to the agricultural land by an objective right over it, including both formal legal possession and alienation rights.
- The need to combine different proxies, as no single proxy is universally valid.

<sup>1</sup> Defined as: “all land used for crops with a less than one-year growing cycle” (WCA 2020). Temporary crops comprise all the crops that need to be sown or planted after each harvest for new production (e.g. cereals). The full list of crops classified as ‘temporary’ is provided in the WCA 2020, page 165 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4913e.pdf>). <sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Defined as land that has been cultivated for less than five years with herbaceous or forage crops for mowing or pasture. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>3</sup> When arable land is kept at rest for at least one agricultural year because of crop rotation or other reasons, such as the impossibility to plant new crops, this is defined as temporarily fallow. This category does not include the land that it is not cultivated at the time of the survey but will be sowed and planted before the end of the agricultural year. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Area that is cultivated with long term crops that do not need to be replanted every year, such as fruits and nuts, some types of stimulant crops, etc. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Land cultivated with herbaceous forage crops or is left as wild prairie or grazing land for more than five years. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Source: “UN Methodological Guidelines on the Production of Statistics on Asset Ownership from a Gender Perspective” Draft Guidelines submitted at the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Source: “Multilingual thesaurus on land tenure”, FAO 2003 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Source: “Multilingual thesaurus on land tenure”, FAO 2003 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Source: “Multilingual thesaurus on land tenure”, FAO 2003 <sup>1</sup>

## 2.b. Unit of measure

(a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

## 2.c. Classifications

Classification of land use - World Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020).

## 3.a. Data sources

Recommended data sources:

Indicator 5.a.1 focuses on adult individuals living in agricultural households – i.e. households that have practiced agriculture over the last 12 months. Thus, it can be collected through Agricultural surveys/ censuses or national household-based surveys having a suitable coverage of agricultural households. Generally speaking, surveys are more cost-effective than censuses because they are carried out on a representative sample which is then used to estimate the parameters at the population level.

Agricultural Surveys are a recommended data source for two main reasons:

1. their unit of analysis are agricultural holdings and, in most countries, a one-to-one relationship exists between the household-sector agricultural holdings and the agricultural households. Therefore, agricultural surveys capture well the reference population of indicator 5.a.1 (i.e. agricultural households) and they do not require any pre-screening and oversampling to generate nationally representative estimates.
2. agricultural surveys can easily accommodate questions on agricultural land tenure rights, since they frequently collect data regarding rights to agricultural land and data on agricultural production.

National Household Surveys (NHS) <sup>[10]</sup> are a recommended data source for indicator 5.a.1 for several reasons:

1. National Household surveys are the most common data source available in both developed and developing countries.
2. National Household surveys tend to be very broad in scope and they are normally used to generate social, demographic and economic statistics. Therefore they: i) can accommodate questions needed for the computation of indicator 5a1; ii) allow exploring associations between the individual status on indicator 5a1 and other individual or household characteristics, such as education, health, income level, etc; iii) can include additional data for a more detailed analysis of the indicator (eg., land size).

However, if NHS are used to monitor indicator 5.a.1, it is necessary to identify agricultural households. In addition, especially in countries/regions with a low proportion of households engaged in agricultural production, a pre-screening and oversampling may be needed, especially in urban and peri-urban areas. In the absence of agricultural or household-based surveys, agricultural censuses can be used for collecting data on SDG 5.a.1. Nonetheless, the Censuses present some disadvantages:

1. They are usually conducted every 10 years; therefore, they do not allow countries to closely monitor the progress on indicator 5.a.1.
2. They are large scale and costly operations focussing on the structure of the population.
3. They heavily rely on proxy respondents, an approach which is in contrast with the respondents' selection procedure recommended for indicator 5.a.1.

### Who should respond? How many people?

For indicator 5a1, it is crucial to: i) choose the number of individuals on which information is to be collected, and ii) determine who should report this information. Two options are suggested:

- **Option 1:** Each adult member of the household is interviewed on his/her ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land (self-respondent approach applied to all members)
- **Option 2:** One randomly selected adult household member is interviewed on his/her ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land (self-respondent approach applied to one member)

In practice, due to budget constraints and time limitations, interviewing only one adult member per household will be the most viable option. However, if a country wants to study intra-household dynamics or to increase the precision of the 5a1 estimates, it may decide to collect information about each household member, using self-reported data.

When collecting data on asset ownership from a gender perspective, it is not recommended to use proxy respondents, whereby the most knowledgeable household member is usually interviewed to collect information on all the household members<sup>[11]</sup>. However, if the survey used as a vehicle for the collection of 5.a.1 data cannot adopt the self-respondent approach, then proxy respondents should be used to collect information on all household members.

### Minimum Set of Data

A minimum set of data is needed to calculate the indicator summarized in the table below:

Whether or not the household has operated <b>land</b> for agricultural purposes and / or raised <b>livestock</b> over the past 12 months	To identify adult individuals living in agricultural households, by sex
<b>Sex</b> of the selected individual	
<b>Age</b> of the selected individual	
Whether or not the <b>individual owns or holds</b> any <b>agricultural land</b>	To identify land owners and/or rights bearers over the agricultural land based on the 3 proxies
Whether or not any of the land owned or held by the individual has a <b>legally recognized document</b> that allows protecting his/her ownership / tenure rights over the land	
Whether or not the individual is <b>listed as an owner or holder</b> on any of the legally recognized documents, either alone or jointly with someone else	
Whether or not the individual has the <b>right to sell</b> any of the agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else	

Whether or not the individual has the **right to bequeath** any of the agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else

### Questions to Capture the Agricultural Population

As mentioned above, the reference population (denominator) for indicator 5.a.1 are the individuals living in the agricultural households. For the purpose of this indicator, an individual is part of the reference population if s/he is adult and belongs to a household that *has operated land for agricultural purposes and / or raised livestock over the past 12 months, regardless of the final purpose of the production.*

The module presented in this section suggests how to identify 'agricultural households when a household-based survey is used. Questions below should be asked to the most knowledgeable member of the household. They aim to capture household's involvement in agriculture over the past 12 months.

Module for capturing the reference population

Question		Function
<b>Q1</b>	Did this <b>household</b> operate any <b>land</b> <sup>(1)</sup> for agricultural purposes in the last 12 months <sup>(2)</sup> ? 1. Yes 2. No (go to Q3)	<i>Screening (farming)</i>
<b>Q2</b>	Was farming performed... (tick all that apply) 1. For use / consumption of the household? 2. For profit / trade? 3. As wage work for others?	<i>Filter out from the denominator households where farming was done only as wage labor</i>
<b>Q3</b>	Did this <b>household raise or tend</b> any livestock (e.g., cattle, goats, etc.) in the last 12 months? 1. Yes 2. No (questions end)	<i>Screening (livestock)</i>
<b>Q4</b>	Was raising/tending <b>livestock</b> performed... (tick all that applies) 1. For use / consumption of the household? 2. For profit / trade? 3. As wage work for others?	<i>Filter out from the denominator households where raising/tending livestock was done only as wage labor</i>

<sup>(1)</sup> Including orchards and kitchen gardens

<sup>(2)</sup> Alternative phrasings:

☐ Did this household **cultivate/use** any land for agricultural purposes in the last 12 months?

☐ Did this household operate any land **to produce crops** in the last 12 months?

☐ Did this household **cultivate/use** any land **to produce crops** in the last 12 months?

Households who have tenure rights over agricultural land but do not cultivate land are excluded from the reference population, because the indicator focuses on households whose livelihood is linked to practicing agriculture. Finally, households whose member/s is/are engaged in the agricultural sector only as wage labourer/s are excluded from the reference population. Indeed, while it makes sense to classify as 'agricultural' a household where someone is operating land / raising livestock on his/her own, the same cannot be said for households where a member works on the land / raise livestock only for someone else because, in this case, agricultural land is not an asset relevant for the household economy.

\*\*\*\*\*

Based on the minimum set of data outlined above, we present below the set of questions proposed for the calculation of the 5a1 indicator. Two approaches are presented:

1. A module that consists of minimum set of questions when collecting data at the individual level
2. A module that can be appended to the survey when collecting the data at the parcel level

## Minimum set of questions collected at the individual-level

List of standard questions	Function
<p><b>Q1. Do you hold (alternatively ‘do you have, use or occupy’) any agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else?</b></p> <p>1 - Yes</p> <p>2 – No (end of the module)</p>	<p>Reported possession (i.e., self-perception of respondent’s possession status)</p> <p>This question refers to whether the respondent, not the respondent’s household, holds any agricultural land. It measures reported possession, which captures the respondent’s self-perception of his/her possession status, irrespective of whether the respondent has a formal documentation.</p>
<p><b>Q2. Is there a formal document for <u>any</u> of the agricultural land you use to that is issued by or registered at the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency, such as a title deed, certificate of ownership, certificate of hereditary acquisition, lease or rental contract?</b></p> <p>1 - Yes</p> <p>2 – No &gt;&gt; Q4</p>	<p>This question identifies whether there is a legally recognized document for any of the agricultural land the respondent reports having.</p> <p>Documented ownership / tenure rights refer to the existence of any document an individual can use to claim ownership or tenure rights in law over the land.</p>
<p><b>Q3a. What type of documents are there for the agricultural land you own or hold use rights to?</b></p> <p><b>LIST UP TO 3, SHOW PHOTO AID</b></p> <p><b>Codes for document type:</b></p> <p>1 - Title deed</p> <p>2 - Certificate of customary ownership</p> <p>3 - Certificate of occupancy</p> <p>4 - Certificate of hereditary acquisition listed in registry</p> <p>5 - Survey Plan</p> <p>6 - Rental contract, registered</p> <p>7 – Lease</p> <p>8 – Other (specify: _____)</p>	<p>The list of options presented here is indicative. It is of utmost importance that the list includes all the legal documents recognized/ enforceable by law according to the national land tenure system.</p>
<p><b>Q3b. Is your name listed on any of the documents as owner or right use holder?</b></p> <p>1 – Yes</p> <p>2 – No</p> <p>98 - Don’t know</p> <p>99 - Refusal</p>	<p>Because individual names can be listed as witnesses on a document, it is important to ask if the respondent is listed “as an owner” or “holder” on the document. The respondent does not need to show the document to the enumerator.</p>
<p><b>Q4. Do you have the right to sell any of the agricultural land you own or hold use rights to, either alone or jointly with someone else?</b></p> <p>1 - Yes</p> <p>2 – No</p> <p>98 - Don’t know</p> <p>99 - Refuses to respond</p>	<p><b>Alienation rights</b></p> <p>This question obtains information on whether the respondent believes that he/she has the right to sell any of the agricultural land s/he reports possessing. When a respondent has the right to sell the land, it means that he or she has the right to permanently transfer the land to another person or entity for cash or in-kind benefits.</p>
<p><b>Q5. Do you have the right to bequeath any of the parcel hold (alternatively ‘parcel possessed, used or occupied’), alone or jointly with someone else?</b></p> <p>1 - Yes</p>	<p><b>Alienation rights</b></p> <p>This question obtains information on whether the respondent believes that he/she has the right to bequeath any of the agricultural land he/she reports possessing.</p>

2 - No	When a respondent has the right to bequeath the land, it means that he/she has the right to give the land by oral or written will to another person(s) upon the death his/her death.
98 - Don't know	
99 - Refuses to respond	

#### A module where data are collected at the parcel level

Countries may opt to collect information at the parcel level for two reasons:

1. When the survey already includes a roster of agricultural parcels to which the questions on ownership or tenure rights can be easily integrated.
2. When they want to go beyond the minimum set of data for the computation of the indicator to collect a broader set of information to carry out a comprehensive analysis of women's and men's ownership, rights and control over the agricultural land<sup>[12]</sup>.

When a module on the ownership / tenure rights of agricultural land is appended to an existing survey, the total number and sequence of questions in the module will depend on the general objectives and structure of the survey. Yet, for calculation of SDG Indicator 5.a.1, the following rules should be followed:

i) If the main survey questionnaire already captures a roster of parcels belonging to the household, the respondent randomly selected to complete the module on agricultural land ownership / tenure rights should be asked if she/he hold any agricultural land. If yes, the respondent should report which parcels from this roster he/she possesses. In addition, the respondent should be given the opportunity to report any additional parcels not included in the household parcel roster. The questions in the module will only be asked for the agricultural parcels held by the respondent (see example below). *If all household members are interviewed*, a roster of parcel should be created at the household level and the same procedure described in rule (i) should be followed for each household member.

#### Parcel-level module on the ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land based on household parcel roster

<b>Q0. Do you use, own, or hold any agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else, irrespective of whether the agricultural land is used household?</b>  1 – Yes  2 – No (end of module)							
	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>			<b>Q5</b>
<b>Parcel ID</b>	<b>Parcel name</b>  <i>ENUMERATOR: COPY HERE THE AGRICULTURAL PARCELS LISTED IN THE HOUSEHOLDS QUESTIONNAIRE THAT ARE HELD (SOLELY OR JOINTLY) BY THE RESPONDENT. THEN, ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FOR EACH PARCEL</i>	<b>Under which tenure system is this [PARCEL]?</b>  1. Customary 2. Freehold 3. Leasehold 4. State 5. Community/Group right 6. Cooperatives 7. Other (specify)	<b>Is there a document or certificate for this agricultural [PARCEL] issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency such as a title deed, certificate of hereditary acquisition, lease or rental contract?</b>  1 – Yes  2 – No >> Q5	<b>What type of documents are there for this agricultural [PARCEL] and is your name listed on any of the documents as owner or right use holder?</b>  <b>List up to 3 documents, show photo aid</b>  1 - Title deed 2 - Certificate of customary ownership 3 - Certificate of occupancy 4 - Certificate of hereditary acquisition listed in registry 5 - Survey Plan 6 - Rental contract, registered 7 – Lease 8 – Other (specify: _____)  <b>CODES FOR NAME LISTED?</b>  1 - Yes  2 – No  98 - Don't know  99 - Refuses to respond			<b>Do you have right this [PARCEL] either alone joint someone else?</b>  1 - Yes  2 – No  98 - I know  99 - I to res
1			<input type="checkbox"/>	DOCUMENT #1	DOCUMENT #2	DOCUMENT #3	<input type="checkbox"/>
				DOC TYPE	NAME LISTED	DOC TYPE	NAME LISTED
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

iii) If the main survey questionnaire does not include a roster of parcels at the household level and one randomly-selected adult household member will be administered the module on agricultural land ownership /tenure rights, a roster of parcels can be created in the individual questionnaire by asking the respondent to list all of the parcels that s/he holds (see example below).

**Parcel-level module on the ownership / tenure rights of agricultural land based on respondent parcel roster.**

Q0. Do you use, own, or hold rights for any agricultural land, either alone or jointly with someone else, irrespective of whether the agricultural land is your own or another household?										
1. Yes 2. No (end of module)										
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4						Q5
Parcel ID	Please tell me about each agricultural parcel for which you currently use, own, or hold use rights for, either alone or jointly with someone else. Please describe of give me the name of each parcel.	Under which tenure system is this [PARCEL]?  1. Customary 2. Freehold 3. Leasehold 4. State 5. Community/Group right 6. Cooperatives 7. Other (specify)	Is there a document for this agricultural [PARCEL] issued by the Land Registry/Cadastral Agency, such as a title deed, certificate of hereditary acquisition, lease or rental contract?  1 – Yes 2 – No >> Q5	What type of documents are there for this agricultural [PARCEL] and is your name listed on any of the documents as owner or right use holder?  List up to 3 documents, show photo aid  1 - Title deed 2 - Certificate of customary ownership 3 - Certificate of occupancy 4 - Certificate of hereditary acquisition listed in registry 5 - Survey Plan 6 - Rental contract, registered 7 - Lease 8 - Other (specify: _____)  CODES FOR NAME LISTED? 1 - Yes 2 - No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuses to respond						Do you have the right to this [PARCEL] either alone or jointly with someone else?  1 - Yes 2 - No 98 - Don't know 99 - Refuse to respond
				DOCUMENT #1		DOCUMENT #2		DOCUMENT #3		
				DOC TYPE	NAME LISTED	DOC TYPE	NAME LISTED	DOC TYPE	NAME LISTED	
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>10</sup> Examples of NHS that could be used to generate the indicator 5.a.1 are: Household Budget Surveys (HBS), Living Standard Measurement Surveys (LSMS), Living Conditions Surveys, Labour Force Surveys (LFS) and Multipurpose Household Surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) can be also used as data collection vehicle, provided that their individual questionnaires are administered to individuals beyond the age classes typically used in these surveys. [↓](#)

<sup>11</sup> Findings from the pilot studies reveal that data from proxy respondents yield different estimates than self-reported data, with variations by asset, by type of ownership and by the sex of the owner. In particular, it was found that proxy-reported data decrease both women's and men's reported ownership of agricultural land. Such underestimation is greater for men (-15 percentage points) than for women (-10 percentage points), and is less pronounced when we consider documented ownership (-7 percentage points for men and -2 percentage points for women). [↓](#)

<sup>12</sup> A full list of data items, and their rationale can be found in UNSD (2019) [↓](#)

### 3.b. Data collection method

The data should be collected through surveys that collect information on individual's land ownership and tenure rights. The recommended data sources and the questions that should be used to collect the minimum set of data are described in section 3.a.

### 3.c. Data collection calendar

The data collection calendar depends on the frequency of surveys required to compute the indicators. FAO is engaging with the countries to include the questions needed to measure the indicator into their existing national surveys i.e. household-based surveys, agricultural surveys and censuses through capacity development activities at national/ regional levels and provide technical assistance needed to compute the indicator.

### 3.d. Data release calendar

The data release depends highly on the frequency of surveys required to compute the indicators.

### 3.e. Data providers

National Statistical Offices. If agricultural surveys are used, the responsible organization will be the Ministry of Agriculture or, more generally, the organization responsible for agricultural surveys at country level.

### 3.f. Data compilers

FAO

### 3.g. Institutional mandate

Article I of the FAO constitution requires that the Organization collect, analyses, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture <http://www.fao.org/3/K8024E/K8024E.pdf>.

### 4.a. Rationale

Indicator 5.a.1 aims to monitor the gender balance on ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land. Sub-indicator (a) and sub-indicator (b) are based on the same data and they simply monitor ownership / tenure rights from two different angles. Indeed, while sub-indicator (a) uses the total male/female agricultural population as reference population, and it tell us how many male/female own land, sub-indicator (b) focusses on the agricultural population with land ownership/tenure rights, and it tell us how many of them are women.

Therefore, it is sufficient to have:

1. The number of adult individuals in agriculture with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land (by sex), and
2. The total adult agricultural population

The table below shows the data used to construct part (a) and (b) of the indicator.

	Male	Female	Total
Adult individuals in agricultural population with ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land	100	10	110

Agricultural population	200	100	300	
Sub-indicator (a): prevalence of people in the agricultural population with ownership or tenure rights over agricultural land.				
<div></div>	<p>The sub-indicator (a) measures the percentage of individuals with ownership or secure tenure rights over agricultural land among the total agricultural population, by sex. In this example, overall, 37 percent of the agricultural population has ownership or tenure rights over ag land. When the indicator is disaggregated by sex, gender disparities become visible: 50 per cent of the adult men living in agricultural households own or hold secure tenure rights over agricultural land as compared to 10 per cent of adult women, in this example.</p>			
<p>On the other hand, to construct part (b) we will need to include the type of tenure variable for each parcel that the individuals hold. Therefore, the data needs to be collected at the parcel level. The table below present an extension of the previous example.</p>				
Adult individuals in agricultural households with ownership / tenure rights over agricultural land	Type of tenure	Male	Female	Total
	Customary	15	3	18
	Freehold	25	1	26
	Leasehold	48	5	53
	Others	12	1	13
Sub-indicator (b): share				
<div></div>	<p>This sub-indicator (b) focuses on the total number of people (living in agricultural households) with ownership or secure tenure rights over agricultural land. The purpose of this sub-indicator is to show how many of these individuals are women by type of tenure. In this example, we can see that independently of the type of tenure, women have less probability of owning or having secure tenure rights over agricultural land. The gap is significantly higher when we consider freehold tenure: only 4 per cent are women as compared to 17 per cent among the customary tenure system.</p>			

## 4.b. Comment and limitations

If a country adopts the strategy of interviewing one randomly selected person per household, this may result in a small sample size. Countries are recommended to take into consideration the impact on the expected sample size on the precision of the estimates and the tabulation plan. If necessary, countries may consider to interview more than one individual per household, or all individuals. Alternatively, countries may consider to collect information on all household member through a proxy respondent (option 1 above).

It is critical that the list of legally binding documents proposed above is customized in order to consider only documents that are enforceable before the law and that guarantee individual's tenure rights in the national context.

## 4.c. Method of computation

### How the indicator is calculated:

The indicator 5.a.1 considers as owners or holders of tenure rights all the individuals in the reference population (agricultural population) who:

- Are listed as 'owners' or 'holders' on a certificate that testifies security of tenure over agricultural land

OR

- Have the right to sell agricultural land

OR

- Have the right to bequeath agricultural land

The presence of one of the three proxies is sufficient to define a person as ‘owner’ or ‘holder’ of tenure rights over agricultural land. The advantage of this approach is its applicability to different countries. Indeed, based on the analysis of the seven EDGE pilot countries, these proxies provide the most robust measure of ownership/tenure rights that is comparable across countries with diverse prevalence of documentation. In fact, individuals may still have the right to sell or bequeath an asset in the absence of legally recognized document, therefore the indicator combines documented ownership / tenure rights with the right to sell or bequeath to render it comparable across countries.

**Operationalization of indicator 5.a.1 expressed through mathematical formulas** are the following:

Sub-indicator (a)

Total agricultural population with: Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it	* 100, by sex
Total agricultural population	

Sub-indicator (b)

Number of women in agriculture with: Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it	* 100, by type of tenure
Number of people in agriculture with: Legally recognized document on agricultural land OR the right to sell it OR the right to bequeath it	

#### 4.d. Validation

FAO is responsible to check the syntaxes used in the computation of the indicator as well as the questions.

#### 4.e. Adjustments

No adjustment with respect to use of standard classification and harmonization of breakdown for age groups and other dimension is performed.

#### 4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level

- At country level

No imputation of data is made at country level.

- At regional and global levels

No imputation of data is made at the regional and global level.

#### 4.g. Regional aggregations

Weighted regional aggregates will be generated only if a sufficient number of countries in the region report on the indicator.

#### 4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level

Countries can rely on the background paper describing the methodology and other relevant documents available at [http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/5a1/en/?ADMCMDCMD\\_view=1](http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/5a1/en/?ADMCMDCMD_view=1) as well as the e-learning available at <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=363>

#### 4.i. Quality management

Logical and arithmetic control of reporting data is carried out.

## 4.j. Quality assurance

---

FAO is collaborating with the countries to design/ complete/ improve the survey questionnaires and contributing to develop and check the syntaxes used to compute the indicator. The microdata of surveys utilized in the computation of indicators are collected by the national institutions, hence their quality rests with the data producers.

## 4.k. Quality assessment

---

Quality assessment are performed on the final estimation of the indicator when it is updated and compared with previous results. Some countries have data that needs to be assessed further, either check on the raw data and/or the processing of data.

## 5. Data availability and disaggregation

---

Data availability:

As a new indicator, 5.a.1 is not yet produced by any country as of 2017.

Breakdown of the number of countries covered by region is as follows:

<b>World</b>		
<b>Africa</b>		
Northern Africa		
Sub-Saharan Africa		
Eastern Africa	4	
Middle Africa		
Southern Africa		
Western Africa	3	
<b>Americas</b>		
Latin America and the Caribbean	1	
Caribbean		
Latin America		
Northern America		
<b>Asia</b>		
Central Asia		

Eastern Asia		
Southern Asia	1	
South-Eastern Asia	1	
Western Asia		
<b>Europe</b>		
Eastern Europe		
Northern Europe		
Southern Europe		
Western Europe		
<b>Oceania</b>		
Australia and New Zealand		
Melanesia		
Micronesia		
Polynesia		

### Disaggregation\*:

We can distinguish between levels of disaggregation which are ‘mandatory’ for the global monitoring and levels of disaggregation which are recommended especially for the country level analysis, as they provide an in-sight for policy making.

‘mandatory’ levels of disaggregation	‘recommended’ levels of disaggregation (not exhaustive list)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[for sub-indicator (a)] sex of the individuals</li> </ul>	<p>[for both sub-indicators]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income level</li> <li>age group</li> <li>ethnic group</li> <li>geographic location (urban/rural)</li> <li>tenure type</li> <li>type of legally recognized document</li> </ul>

## 6. Comparability/deviation from international standards

Sources of discrepancies:

There is currently no known source of difference.

## 7. References and Documentation

---

URL: <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/5.a.1/en/>